THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (d) The proven reserves of lignite in Rajasthan are estimated at 385 million tonnes. Detailed exploration has been undertaken in different promising areas with a view to identifying mining projects and linked power projects.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation has prepared a feasibility report for a lignite mine of 1·7 million tonnes per annum capacity and a linked power station of 2 × 120 MW installed capacity. The proven reserves of lignite in this area are about 61 million tonnes. The mine-cum-power project is expected to yield benefits towards the end of the Eighth Plan period. As per provisional estimates made in July, 1988, mine-cum-power project may cost Rs. 718 crores.

A number of foreign parties have shown interest in the project.

**Fictitious bill by Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking**

53. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the billing cycle by DESU is seldom observed and that the consumers are sent accumulated and fictitious bills after a gap of 12 to 14 months thus making it difficult for the consumers to make payment of large amount;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the electricity bills are not based on actual consumption/reading of meters but on an average and fictitious reading which is incorrect; and

(c) if so, what corrective measures have been taken by the Government or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) According to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, electricity bills are normally sent once in two months in the case of domestic consumers and on monthly basis in the case of industrial/bulk supply consumers. The billing cycle is normally adhered to. However, there has been some dislocation in sending bills to the consumers for longer periods due to certain procedural/administrative constraints. According to DESU, consumers have the facility to deposit the amount of the bills of more than 2 months consumption in instalments.

(b) and (c) According to DESU, normally electricity bills are issued on the basis of meter reading except in certain cases where meter reading cannot be taken due to defective/burnt meters etc. On certain occasions provisional bills had to be issued due to shortage of meter reading staff. Such bills are subject to adjustment in the subsequent bills to be prepared on the basis of actual meter reading.

The work of electricity billing is in the process of being streamlined through progressive computerisation of bills for which in-house computer has been commissioned by DESU in December, 1987.

**Allotment of industrial plots/sheds to ex-servicemen**

54. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of industrial plots/sheds allotted to ex-servicemen stating the number of industrial ventures that have actually come up during the past three years, State-wise;

(b) what is the number of industrial plots/sheds which are yet to be